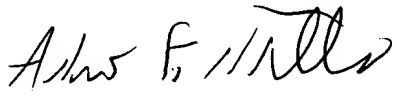
REMARKS

The application is to be amended as previously set forth. Responsive to the restriction requirement, applicants have elected the claims of Group III (*i.e.*, claims 5-7 and 20-22) drawn to a recombinant virus, a cell culture containing the virus and a vaccine. This election is made without prejudice. Applicants have amended claims 11-19 of Group II such that the claims are believed to be included in Group III. All amendments are made without prejudice or disclaimer. Reconsideration and substantive of the application is requested.

CONCLUSION

If questions exist after consideration of the foregoing, the Office is kindly requested to contact the applicants' representative at the address or telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,



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MARKED UP VERSION OF CLAIMS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

11. (Amended) The [recombinant nucleic acid] modified RNA virus of claim [10] 20 wherein the infectious clone is based on the genome of a virus of the order *Nidovirales.*

12. (Amended) The [recombinant nucleic acid] modified RNA virus of claim 11 wherein the infectious clone is based on the genome of a virus of the family *Arteriviridae.*

13. (Amended) The [recombinant nucleic acid] modified RNA virus of claim 12 wherein the virus is PRRSV.

14. (Amended) The [recombinant nucleic acid molecule] modified RNA virus of claim [10] 20 wherein the infectious clone further comprises at least one nucleic acid sequence encoding a virulence marker and/or a serological marker particular to said positive strand RNA virus, and wherein said at least one nucleic acid sequence has been modified to effect a change in virulence and/or a change in serological immune response *in vivo*.

15. (Amended) The [recombinant nucleic acid molecule] modified RNA virus of claim 14 wherein the nucleic acid sequence encoding said virulence or serological marker or virulence and serological markers is located within any of the genome's open reading frames encoding structural viral proteins.

16. (Amended) The [recombinant nucleic acid molecule] modified RNA virus of claim [10] 20 wherein said infectious clone further comprises a nucleic acid sequence comprising at least one open reading frame and wherein said at least one open reading frame is substituted by an ORF7.

17. (Amended) The [recombinant nucleic acid molecule] modified RNA virus of claim [10] 20 wherein at least one additional heterologous nucleic acid sequence is inserted into the infectious clone, allowing the infectious clone to serve as a delivery system for an additional heterologous nucleic acid sequence.

18. (Amended) The [recombinant nucleic acid molecule] modified RNA virus of claim 17 wherein said heterologous nucleic sequence encodes an antigen.

19. (Amended) The [recombinant nucleic acid molecule] modified RNA virus of claim [10] 20 wherein said infectious clone further comprises a nucleic acid sequence comprising at least one open reading frame, said at least one open reading frame having been modified to effect a change in virulence and/or a change in serological response *in vivo* in a cell into which the infectious clone has been introduced.

20. (Amended) A modified RNA virus comprising [the recombinant nucleic acid of claim 10.] an infectious clone based upon a positive strand RNA virus's genome, said infectious clone produced by a process comprising:

generating a recombinant nucleic acid comprising at least one full-length DNA copy or at least one *in vitro*- transcribed RNA copy or a derivative of either said at least one DNA copy or said at least one *in-vitro* transcribed RNA copy; and

wherein the RNA virus's genome is at least about 15 kb.